<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-29 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 8 are amended, and claims 3 and 7 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 3, and claim 5 is amended to include the features of claim 7. Additional support for the amendments to claim 1 and 5 is found in FIG. 7 of the Disclosure, for example. Claim 8 is amended to improve form.

For the following reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

With respect to the rejection of claims 1, 3-5 and 7-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Related Art as illustrated in FIGs. 1-3 of the present disclosure in view of Johnson, U.S. patent 2,443,826, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

None of the Related Art as illustrated in FIGS. 1-3 of the present disclosure or Johnson disclose or suggest the at least one bolt being angled relative to a lower portion of the core material portion, as recited in claim 1 and 5.

Rather, FIGS. 1-3 do not disclose a bolt, and Johnson simply discloses bolts that are straight relative to the lower portion of platens 16, 25. Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 are patentably distinguishable.

Claims 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18 and 20-24, which depend from claim 1; and claims 8, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 25-29, which depend from claim 5, are likewise patentable for at least the reasons discussed above and/or for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and/or remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Seth S. Kim, Reg. No. 54,577, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: SEP 18 2000 Respectfully submitted,

Esther H. Chong

Registration No.: 40,953

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant